

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of October 1, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 12 - 22 have been examined. As a result, claims 12 - 17 and 22 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as anticipated by Schaffer et al, and claims 18 - 21 are objected to. The examiner has indicated that claims 18 - 21 contain allowable subject matter.


In reply, claims 18 - 21 have been replaced by claims 23 - 26, which represent claims 18 - 21 in independent form. Claims 23 - 26 are, therefore, in allowable condition.

The rejection of claims 12 - 17 and 22 is respectfully traversed because the Schaffer et al publication is not a reference against claims 12 - 17 and 22. The Schaffer et al publication has a filing date of December 22, 2003, whereas the effective filing date of the present application is its International Filing date, namely November 17, 2003. This latter date precedes the December 22, 2003 date so that the Schaffer et al publication is not an effective reference.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 12 - 17 and 22 be allowed along with claims 23 - 26.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: January 2, 2008


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